

Please insert the following new claims:

Sub C1
-- 8. (New) A cosmetic and/or dermatological preparation comprising an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of bile acids, salts of bile acids, derivatives of bile acids, and mixtures thereof. --

-- 9. (New) The preparation according to Claim 8, further comprising cosmetic or dermatological auxiliaries, additives, and/or other active ingredients. --

AB
-- 10. (New) The preparation according to Claim 8, wherein the amount of the active ingredient is in the range of about 0.001 to about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation. --

-- 11. (New) The preparation according to Claim 10, wherein the amount of the active ingredient is in the range of about 0.01% to about 1% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation. --

-- 12. (New) The preparation according to Claim 11, wherein the amount of the active ingredient is in the range of about 0.01% to about 0.5% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation. --

Sub D1 Corit
-- 13. (New) The preparation according to Claim 8, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of deoxycholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid and salts and derivatives thereof. -- *Lacks AB no salt*

-- 14. (New) The preparation according to Claim 8, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of esters of bile acids and ethers of bile acids. -- *7 lacks AB*

-- 15. (New) The preparation according to Claim 8, wherein the active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal salts, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the transition groups, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the lanthanides, salts of mono- or divalent cations of elements from the actinides, salts of ammonium ($-NH_3$), alkanolammonium derivatives having 2 to 9 carbon atoms in total, alkyl- and alkenylammonium derivatives having 1 to 22 carbon atoms in total, pyridine substituted by an alkyl or alkenyl group which has 1 to 18 carbon atoms, and salts of basic amino acids. --

AC -- 16. (New) The preparation according to Claim 8, wherein the preparation is in an encapsulated form. --

-- 17. (New) The preparation according to Claim 16, wherein the encapsulated form is selected from the group consisting of collagen matrices, cellulose encapsulations, gelatin, wax matrices, and liposomal encapsulations. --

Sub D Cont -- 18. (New) The preparation according to Claim 16, wherein the preparation is in solution form. --

-- 19. (New) A method for strengthening the barrier function of the skin that comprises applying the preparation according to Claim 8 to the skin. --

Sub 02 -- 20. (New) A method for strengthening the barrier function of the skin that comprises applying a preparation comprising about 0.01% to about 0.5% by weight, based on the total weight of the preparation, of an active ingredient selected from the group consisting of deoxycholic acid, ursodeoxycholic acid, taurocholic acid, and salts and derivatives thereof to the skin. --